

2 million acres per year, when the Forest Service has under its charge 200 million acres.

We need to bring in the private sector and everybody we can to get ahead on forest thinning and forest management so we don't keep burning our communities down and causing all the air pollution, water quality issues, loss of wildlife. Meanwhile, we are the second-leading importer of lumber in the world.

What are we doing here? It is time for action.

AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN RUSSIA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the horrible and despicable plight of Brittney Griner and Paul Whelan among other hostages and United States citizens held around the world in this particular situation by a despot who wants to use Brittney as a pawn.

This wonderful young woman, 6 feet 9 inches, an Olympian, is now being taken to a labor camp with vicious conditions, food that is disgraceful, conditions that are disgraceful. It is only because of the selfish despot that wants to eliminate democracy, live in an oppressive society, and use her as a vicious pawn.

I warn Americans: When a former President suggests they want to suspend the Constitution, watch Iran that is killing people in the street simply because they want freedom and democracy, and watch Russia every day.

It has been said, oh, you made a highlight or a star out of Brittney Griner. No. It was the outcry of her family and community that said: We just want her home. We want Paul Whelan, a veteran, home.

Yet, this vicious and vile leader thinks that he has something he can dangle in front of our eyes.

I demand that we get strong-handed with him. This young woman needs to be brought home to her family, and it is a disgrace that we cannot get her home.

DACA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KAHELE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the hundreds—no, thousands of DACA recipients and Dreamers who inspire us every day with their art, resiliency, and strength.

Their stories of success, hope, and dreams are the stories of our country and those who truly believe in the American Dream.

Last week, I went to the Kennedy Center, one of the world's most pres-

tigious performing arts venues, here in this very city, to see the Ballet Hispanico.

There, I saw Hugo Pizano Orozco, an artist, a dancer, and a Dreamer. He is a constituent of mine from Espanola, New Mexico.

Hugo and his family are originally from Guanajuato, Mexico. He came to the United States before he was 2 years old.

After moving from Mexico to Espanola, he fell in love with the art that is dance. He attended the New Mexico School for the Arts, which is a very prestigious school in New Mexico dedicated to the arts.

But like many others, his future remained uncertain because of his immigration status. As a senior, he didn't know if his DACA status would be granted.

Once it was finally approved, though, he applied and was accepted to Juilliard, one of the world's most prestigious performing arts schools. Today, he is a renowned dancer and on tour with Ballet Hispanico.

I have a picture of him here because he does inspire with his art form. He inspires me. He soars across the dance floor at the Kennedy Center.

I was moved, so I asked him for his permission to highlight his story, his inspiration to our community and to America of what our Dreamers can do when we let them live their dream, when we let them accomplish what they are capable of doing in our beautiful country.

His story reminds us of the inspiring stories of thousands of Dreamers across our country. His family brought him to the United States in search of a better life, and he found his American Dream.

His story reflects the best of us and what the American Dream is truly about: hopes and dreams for a better future. Like so many others, his story inspires me, gives me hope, and is why I stand here today.

He soars from New Mexico and graces America with his stunning performances, but we find Dreamers in every State and every community.

I want to echo his words today. He said: "Don't think because you are from a small town in New Mexico, you can't go out there and do the thing you want to do."

We need to remember that small places can do big things. Yes, small places can do big things.

□ 1700

Our Dreamers come from all walks of life—small towns, big cities, the rural areas, suburbia, everywhere. They believe they could do more, and with DACA they have done more.

Like Cindy Nava, a fellow New Mexican who came from Chihuahua, Mexico, seeking a better life. Now, as a 35-year-old, she is actually the first-ever DACA recipient to achieve a presidential appointment to work in the Biden administration as a senior policy advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Housing and

Urban Development. She now works for Marcia Fudge.

Hugo and Cindy are two of the more than 5,000 DACA recipients who make New Mexico a more vibrant place to live.

None of this would have been possible if we didn't have DACA. With the recent court rulings, however, DACA is in immediate danger. We need our Senate Republican colleagues to rise to the moment.

We passed out of this House in the spring of 2021 the American Dream and Promise Act. We now need the Senate to act and work with us to pass bipartisan legislation before the end of the year because it is now or never for our Dreamers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA).

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to call upon our colleagues in the Senate to protect DACA recipients before the end of this Congress.

Six years old, Madam Speaker. Six years old. That is the average age recipients of DACA were when they first entered the U.S. through no fault of their own.

Known as Dreamers, these young people have served in our military, attended our schools, and worked in our communities. They have grown up here, eagerly contributing to our neighborhoods and the diversity that makes America great. They are Americans in their heart and their soul and in their minds because this is the only country that they have known.

Many of them are now educated doctors, trusted lawyers, committed schoolteachers, and essential workers. In fact, more than 200,000 of them worked as essential workers during the pandemic keeping us safe, keeping us healthy. Now, because of right-wing attacks on our communities' all-stars, their futures are uncertain.

Madam Speaker, Dreamers need action, and they need it now.

In my home State of Texas, nearly 100,000 Dreamers are at risk of facing deportation, and 30,000 of them live in my hometown of Houston.

They are not strangers; they are not Martians coming in from some alien nation. We are talking about our friends, our neighbors, people we go to church with, people we buy groceries with, people that are just down the street, and they are also part of our families.

For our community, it is now or never. The Senate must put Dreamers over the political tactics of fear and hate. It is simple: we need to put people over politics. We need to put Dreamers over rhetoric. The time is now.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative GARCIA. We know that Americans want DACA to be codified. They want our Dreamers to live here.

Indeed, in the United States we know that a bipartisan poll conducted in October 2022 found overwhelming support,